

CACR 5 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0320

02/08

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **5**

RELATING TO: absentee ballots.

PROVIDING THAT: no excuse shall be needed by the voter to receive an absentee ballot.

SPONSORS: Rep. Lane, Merr. 16; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution amends the constitution to allow absentee voting for any reason.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

RELATING TO: absentee ballots.

PROVIDING THAT: no excuse shall be needed by the voter to receive an absentee ballot.

Be it Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Constitution of New Hampshire be amended as follows:

1 I. That article 11 of the first part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

2 [Art.] 11 [Elections and Elective Franchises.] All elections are to be free, and every inhabitant
3 of the state of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election. Every
4 person shall be considered an inhabitant for the purposes of voting in the town, ward, or
5 unincorporated place where he has his domicile. No person shall have the right to vote under the
6 constitution of this state who has been convicted of treason, bribery or any willful violation of the
7 election laws of this state or of the United States; but the supreme court may, on notice to the
8 attorney general, restore the privilege to vote to any person who may have forfeited it by conviction
9 of such offenses. The general court shall provide by law for voting by qualified voters who at the
10 time of the biennial or state elections, or of the primary elections therefor, or of city elections, or of
11 town elections by official ballot, ~~[are absent from the city or town of which they are inhabitants, or~~
12 ~~who by reason of physical disability are unable to vote in person,]~~ **want to vote by absentee ballot**
13 **for any reason** in the choice of any officer or officers to be elected or upon any question submitted at
14 such election. Voting registration and polling places shall be easily accessible to all persons
15 including disabled and elderly persons who are otherwise qualified to vote in the choice of any officer
16 or officers to be elected or upon any question submitted at such election. The right to vote shall not
17 be denied to any person because of the nonpayment of any tax. Every inhabitant of the state, having
18 the proper qualifications, has an equal right to be elected into office.

19 II. That the above amendment proposed to the constitution be submitted to the qualified
20 voters of the state at the state general election to be held in November, 2026.

21 III. That the selectmen of all towns, cities, wards and places in the state are directed to
22 insert in their warrants for the said 2026 election an article to the following effect: To decide
23 whether the amendments of the constitution proposed by the 2025 session of the general court shall
24 be approved.

25 IV. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:

26 “Are you in favor of amending article 11 of the first part of the constitution to read as follows:

27 [Art.] 11 [Elections and Elective Franchises.] All elections are to be free, and every inhabitant of
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2 unincorporated place where he has his domicile. No person shall have the right to vote under the
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7 time of the biennial or state elections, or of the primary elections therefor, or of city elections, or of
8 town elections by official ballot, want to vote by absentee ballot for any reason in the choice of any
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10 and polling places shall be easily accessible to all persons including disabled and elderly persons who
11 are otherwise qualified to vote in the choice of any officer or officers to be elected or upon any
12 question submitted at such election. The right to vote shall not be denied to any person because of
13 the nonpayment of any tax. Every inhabitant of the state, having the proper qualifications, has an
14 equal right to be elected into office.”

15 V. That the secretary of state shall print the question to be submitted on a separate ballot
16 with other constitutional questions or on the official ballot. The ballot containing the question shall
17 include 2 ovals next to the question allowing the voter to vote “Yes” or “No.” If no oval is marked, the
18 ballot shall not be counted on the question. The outside of the ballot shall be the same as the regular
19 official ballot except that the words “Questions Relating to Constitutional Amendments proposed by
20 the 2025 General Court” shall be printed in bold type at the top of the ballot.

21 VI. That if the proposed amendment is approved by 2/3 of those voting on the amendment, it
22 becomes effective when the governor proclaims its adoption.

23 VII. Voters' Guide.

24 AT THE PRESENT TIME, the constitution only allows for absentee voting for
25 specific reasons.

26 IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, the constitution will allow for absentee voting
27 for any reason.